

The doe I saw was in fair physical condition. I could not monitor it to confirm its recovery. However, Dr. P.K. Malik (WII, pers. comm.) opined that if the prolapsed mass was as small as that which I saw, there were chances of its natural retraction and the animal regaining health.

I thank Dr. P.K. Mailk for a useful discussion on this aspect. I also thank an

anonymous referee for comments on an earlier draft of this note. The observation was made during a study funded by WII and IUCN.

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5. COMMENTS ON A NEWLY BORN GAUR (*BOS GAURUS*)

On morning of 28th August, 1995 my field assistant Mr. Kunmari and I were walking through a mixed deciduous forest patch in Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary for a routine bird census. At 0930 hours we were on a rock at 10 m observing birds, when I heard a strange sound coming from a bush below. A few seconds later, a single gaur (cow) came out of a lantana bush and started grazing about 100 m from where I was. Since I was on the top of the rock, it did not notice me. I silently approached the animal with my camera to get a closer shot of it. When I was just 50 m away, it lifted its head and stared at me, but continued grazing. This surprising behaviour of not being alarmed, tempted me to find out the reason.

All my previous encounters with gaur had suggested that the gaur is extremely shy and sensitive to even the slightest disturbance. I halted there and continued observing it. Scanning the area, I noticed a calf (resembling a domestic cow's calf) struggling to stand up, about 10 m away from the adult gaur. My experienced field assistant told me that it was the calf of a gaur. Our talking disturbed the gaur and it ran with an alarm call. In a few seconds, the gaur disappeared from our

vicinity (c. 100 m radius). We approached the calf to get a close look and found that it had been delivered only a few minutes earlier. Fresh placenta and blood were on the grass. The calf could not move and was staring at us. It had a pale reddish brown coat with bluish eyes. After about 15 min it tried to run but could not balance its hind limbs and fell down often, but somehow managed to go behind a nearby bush. During this period, there was no vocalization either from the cow or the calf. I looked around the delivery site and noted some habitat features. It was a dry deciduous forest close to a dry stream. The shade in the area was moderate, shrub cover low and the ground was almost fully covered with grass. *Tectona grandis* and *Anogeissus latifolia* were the dominant trees and the terrain was slightly undulating. The gaur had given birth on the grass patch. According to Schaller (1967) and Prater (1971), female gaurs separate from the herd when the calf is born and remain with it, feeding it till the calf is able to accompany it to rejoin the herd. I could not find any gaur herd even after a 3 km walk around the site. After a gap of 15 days, I sighted one herd of gaur in the same place consisting of 4 adult bulls, 8 adult

cows, 3 sub adults and 6 calves. All the calves were of the same age. Prater (1971) reported that the gaur gives birth all around the year but there could be a peak at some seasons. As many small calves were sighted during August and September, this may be one of the peak birth seasons for gaur in Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary.

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6. RANGE EXTENSION OF THE KASHMIR FLYING SQUIRREL (*HYLOPETES FIMBRIATUS* GRAY)

The Kashmir flying squirrel (*Hylopetes fimbriatus*), belongs to the Family Scuridae. It has a distributional range from north Punjab and Kashmir, eastwards to Simla in Himachal Pradesh (Corbett and Hill 1992). Ellerman (1961) and Prater (1980) describe two races of the Kashmir flying squirrel from the western Himalayas; *H.f. fimbriatus* and *H.f. baberi*. The race *H.f. baberi* is considered a different species by Corbett and Hill (1992).

The general colour of the dorsal surface of the body was brownish-black with whitish underparts. The squirrel had distinct brown pinnae and a thick, hairy brownish black tail. Each hind and forelimb had four functional toes almost of same size, the fifth toe being small. Each toe had distinct claws. The soles were bare with a spongy pad below each toe. The measurements of the body parts taken are given in Table 1.

On the basis of the above characters the species was identified as the Kashmir flying squirrel (*Hylopetes fimbriatus*). The species is endemic to the western Himalayas (Prater 1980). Thus the occurrence of the Kashmir flying squirrel in Ranikhet extends the range of the species by about 300 km.

TABLE 1
EXTERNAL MEASUREMENTS OF *HYLOPETES*
FIMBRIATUS FOUND AT BALMORAL
(RANIKHET)

Sex	Head & Body (cm)	Ear (cm)	Tail (cm)	Hind-Foot (cm)	Fore-Foot (cm)
Male	26.9	3.4	29.0	8.5	6.1

A dead specimen of an adult male Kashmir flying squirrel was recovered from Balmoral site in Ranikhet (29° 29' N, 79° 26' E), Kumaon, Uttar Pradesh, on 8th May, 1995. The general morphological characters and the measurements of certain body parts were noted down.

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